

I am writing to testify against the passing of current legislation being prosed to eliminate or alter the religious exemption for vaccinations.

The bill is discriminatory and there needs to remain a separation between church and state. The bill is being prosed as a result of false information and skewed statistics being circulated concerning the percentage of unvaccinated children in the school system. Not all exemptions represent fully unvaccinated children. This was proven by the Westport school district just recently when they confirmed that they have a 100% MMR vaccination rate, despite what the Department of Health report claims. The number of measles cases is three, despite the majority of Connecticut residents who are not currently up-to-date on their vaccinations. And the three cases are all adults, not even children.

The change is allegedly meant to weed out those who may abuse the religious exemption. If there are, in fact, families who do claim a religious exemption for philosophical reasons, we should discuss the reasons why. All parents want what is best for their children. I have the (rather unfortunate) opportunity to see what happens to families from all over the United States, who were once supportive of vaccines, but then experienced the loss of a loved one as a result. It's heartbreaking. Vaccine Injury is real and should not be ignored.

I am going to quote Senator Dennis Linthicum from District 28 in Oregon, who is a proponent for parental rights in their current fight for medical freedom:

"New facts about the safety and efficacy of MMR have recently been uncovered by the Freedom of Information Act requests. We now know that the FDA, which licenses the MMR vaccines, relied on clinical trials with a total of fewer than 1,000 individuals. Of these study participants, only 342 Children received the MMR vaccine.

Their safety review tracked 'adverse events' for only 42 days. Yet more than half of all participants developed gastrointestinal symptoms and upper respiratory infections. These reactions were not considered side effects, labeled as 'other viruses,' and not considered in the safety profile of licensure.

None of the control subjects received a placebo...The lack of adequate safety testing is unacceptable. But the FDA also relies on post-market surveillance to track vaccines."

He goes on to say how he was contacted by hundreds of his constituents, whose children were vaccinated on schedule and had adverse affects. Until more research is done to determine why some people are more susceptible to injury than others, people will use whatever means possible to protect their families. As the saying goes, where there's a risk, there must be a choice.

I do not feel that the small percentage of measles cases statewide warrants legislation change. There are many educated individuals, including legislators and physicians, who advocate to uphold the religious exemption as it currently stands. **I strongly oppose any existing bill, or new/future bill which will eliminate or alter the religious and medical exemptions.**

Thank you for your time.

Kim

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